

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 PRS-01 AF-10

IO-14 EUR-25 H-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PCH-02 SPC-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-04 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-07 /123 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS/MW

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/EGY - MR. ANDERSON

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

S/S-O: KKURZE

----- 115620

O 132200Z NOV 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BONN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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TOSEC 476

NATO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL EXCERPT FROM
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 12,1973:

QUOTE: Q. GOLDA MEIR MADE A SPEECH TO THE KNESSET TODAY
IN WHICH SHE'S REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT ISRAEL IS NOT
ABOUT TO MOVE BACK TO THE OCTOBER 22 LINE, THAT THE CONCEPT
DOESN'T EXIST. WHAT DOES THIS DO TO THE CEASE-FIRE AGREE-
MENT RESOLUTION THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET
UNION AND ALL THE OTHER CONCERNED POWERS SUPPORTED?

A. AS I SEE IT, IF YOU LOOK BACK AT THE SIX POINTS,
EVERYONE AGREED TO A PRACTICAL, PRAGMATIC ARRANGEMENT, AND
WE ASSUMED THAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED ARE PRAGMATICALLY PUR-
SUING, OR WILL PURSUE, THE DISCUSSIONS UNDER THAT SIX-
POINT ARRANGEMENT.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES FEEL THAT ISRAEL RIGHTLY INTER-
PRETED THE AGREEMENT, WHEN IT APPARENTLY ENGAGED IN
PHYSICAL FIGHTING WITH THE FINNISH CONTINGENT OF THE UN
STAFF AND TORE DOWN THEIR CHECK POSTS AND ESTABLISHED THEIR
OWN ON IT TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE SUEZ-CAIRO ROAD?
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A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION IN THE WAY
YOU POSE IT, AT ALL. I WOULD ONLY SAY THAT THE BEST
JUDGMENT I CAN GIVE TO THIS SITUATION IS THAT IT IS NOT
SURPRISING THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES TO INSTITUTE A SERIES
OF SIX RATHER GENERAL PRINCIPLES; AND I TAKE SOME EN-
COURAGEMENT FROM THE FACT THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN AN
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THERE WILL BE A FURTHER MEETING

TOMORROW BETWEEN (I BELIEVE IT'S TOMORROW) BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AUTHORITIES AND THE ISRAELIS, AND I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD JUMP TO ANY PREJUDICIAL CHARACTERIZATION AT THIS QUICK MOMENT.

Q. BUT AT THE UNITED NATIONS, ISRAEL DID AGREE TO A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE -- WHICH WAS OCTOBER 22ND. ISN'T MRS. MEIR'S SPEECH A STEP BACKWARD FROM WHAT ISRAEL AGREED TO ON OCTOBER 22ND?

A. I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY VIRTUE IN CHARACTERIZING A SPEECH. THE PROBLEM HERE IS:

WE HAVE A VAGUE SITUATION IN THE LINES THERE AND THE POINT OF THE ACTIVITY IS: HOW DO THEY CARRY FORWARD THESE DISCUSSIONS -- WHATEVER YOU WISH TO CHARACTERIZE THEM AS -- THESE DISCUSSIONS TO DEAL WITH THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS THAT EXIST NOW.

NOW THAT WAS THE POINT OF THE SIX-POINT AGREEMENT WHICH BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAVE UNDERTAKEN. NOW THIS IS A PRACTICAL EFFORT, AND THE "PROOF OF THE PUDDING" IS THAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE OUR ATTENTION MOST USEFULLY ON THE EFFORT BEING MADE ON THE GROUND TO PRACTICALLY RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE PRETTY WELL IDENTIFIED THERE.

Q. WILL THE UNITED STATES SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT THIS SPEECH, OR ANY ADDITIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT MRS. MEIR MEANT BY HER SPEECH IN THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT?

A. FIRST, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AS A PRACTICE, I THINK IT WOULD BE FOOLISH OF ME TO TRY TO

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PREDICT.

BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORK THAT WE HAVE GOING ON, I DON'T SEE WHY WE WOULD BE ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION FROM EITHER SIDE.

WE ARE LOOKING AT THE ACTIVITY CARRIED ON AT KILOMETER 101. UNQUOTE. RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED SANAA.

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